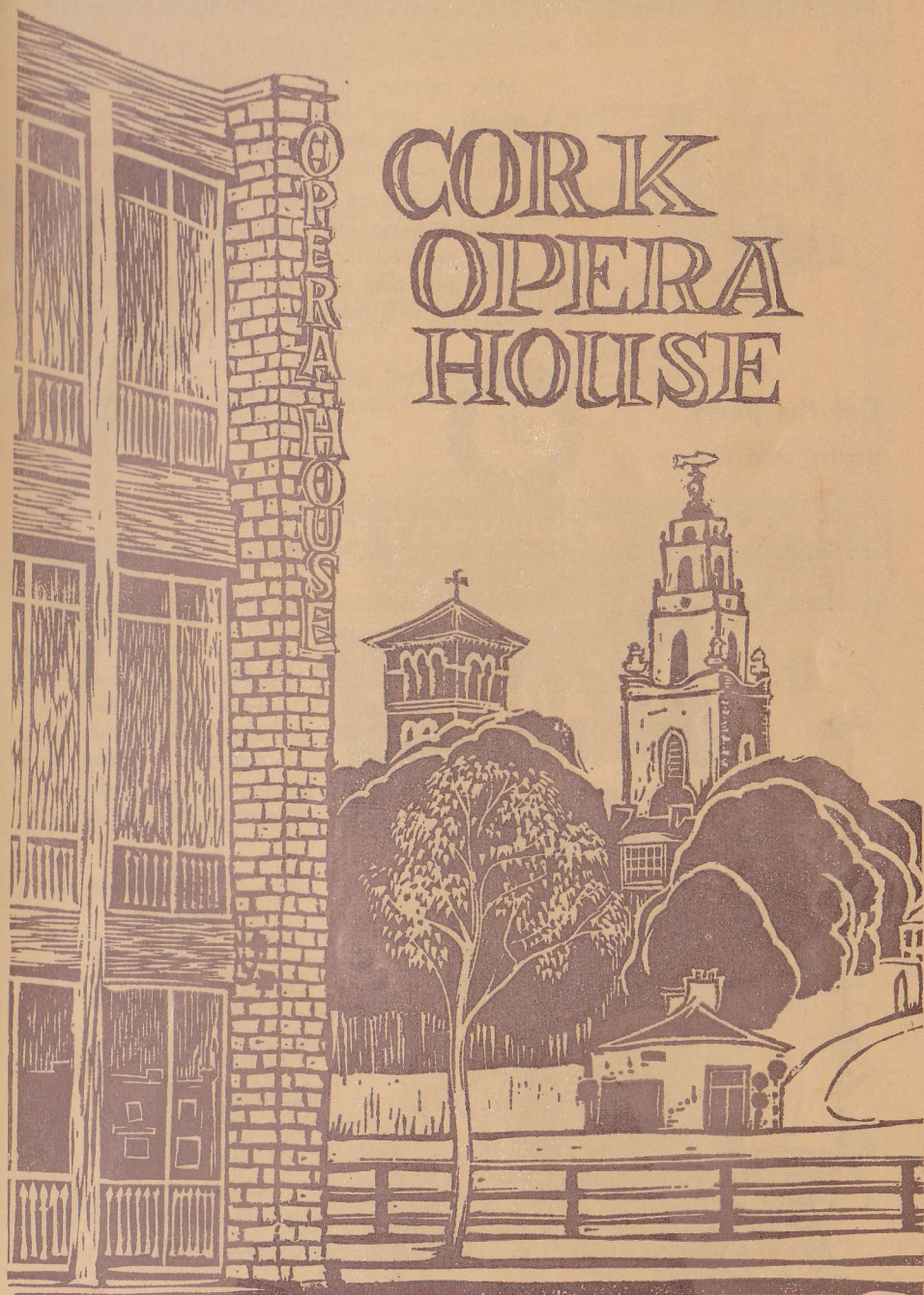


# CORK OPERA HOUSE

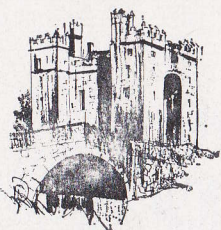
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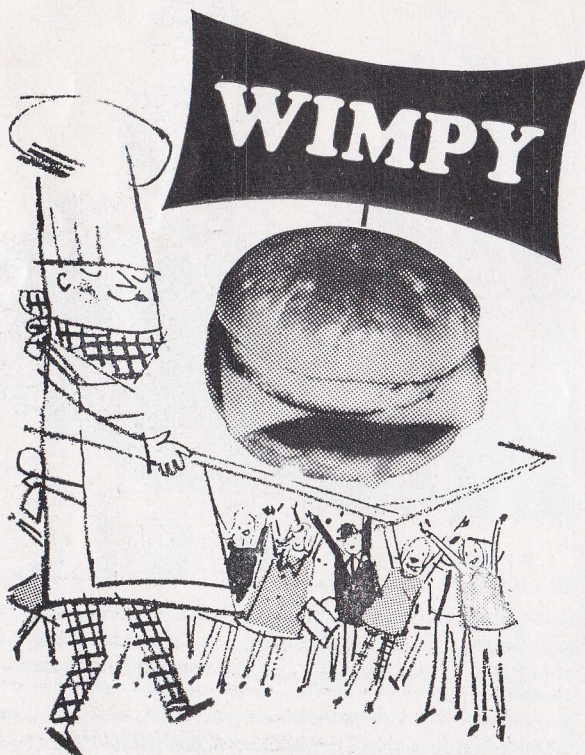


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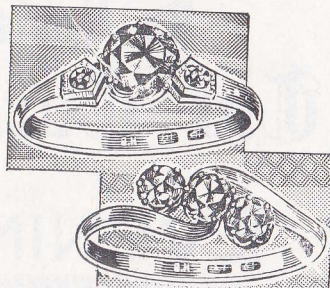
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# CORK OPERA HOUSE

Manager: Patrick Fleming

Tel. 20022

SEASON OPENS SUNDAY, 9th MAY, 1976  
Monday, 10th May      Thursday, 13th May      8.00 p.m.

## CORK OPERA HOUSE in association with THE DUBLIN GRAND OPERA SOCIETY present

### "AIDA"

by GIUSEPPE VERDI (1813-1901)

Libretto by Ghizlanzoni

First performed in December, 1871, at the Opera House, Cairo

#### THE CAST

AIDA (daughter of Amonasro and slave  
of Amneris) ..... MARIA ANGELA ROSATI  
AMNERIS (daughter of the King of Egypt) ..... WALLY SALIO  
RAMPHIS (the High Priest) ..... FRANCO PUGLIESE  
RADAMES (Captain of the Guard) ..... PIERO VISCONTI  
AMONASRO (King of Ethiopia) ..... SALVATORE SASSU  
KING OF EGYPT ..... ALLESANDRO SABBATINI  
MESSENGER ..... PATRICK RING  
PRIESTESS ..... MONICA CONDRON

Priests, soldiers, Ethiopian slaves, prisoners, Egyptians, etc,

#### BALLET:

Soloists: Kenet and Jani

Corps de Ballet: Erica Ludlow, Terry Cavanagh, Diane Cook, Claire Stretton,  
Anne de Fbrullaig, Leigh Donaghue

#### SYNOPSIS OF SCENERY

The scene is set in Memphis and Thebes in the time of the Pharoahs

#### ACT ONE

Scene 1 A hall in the Palace at Memphis  
Scene 2 The Temple of Vulcan at Memphis

#### ACT TWO

Scene 1 The apartment of Amneris in the Palace at Thebes  
Scene 2 The gates of the city at Thebes

#### ACT THREE

The banks of the Nile

#### ACT FOUR

Scene 1 A hall in the Palace of Memphis  
Scene 2 The Temple of Vulcan



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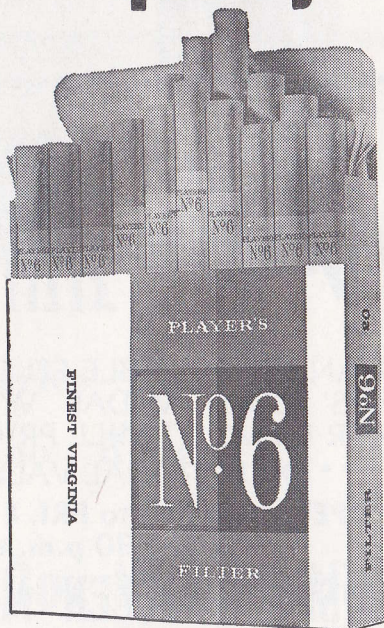
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# "AIDA"

## THE STORY OF THE OPERA

### ACT ONE

**R**ADAMES, Captain of the Guard, is told by Ramphis, the High Priest, of the rumoured invasion of Egypt, and that the oracle of Isis has already named the Egyptian Commander. Radames (Celeste Aida) wishes that he might be the chosen warrior so that he might win Aida and free her from slavery. It is not known in Egypt that Aida, favourite slave of Amneris, is the captive daughter of the Ethiopian king, Amonasro. Amneris, daughter of the King of Egypt, is herself in love with Radames, but is angry that he does not love her. Masking her anger, Amneris affects friendship for Aida. News of the invasion (led by Amonasro) is confirmed and the King declares Radames to be the chosen leader. To the strains of a solemn march all repair to the Temple for Radames' investiture.

Alone, Aida is torn between her love for Radames, the Egyptian, and her love for her father and countrymen who will be his opponents in battle.

In the Temple of Vulcan, Radames is solemnly invested as commander while victory for the Egyptian army is implored of the deity Phtha.

### ACT TWO

Victory goes to the Egyptians, and Amneris, in her apartment in the Palace of Thebes, is being arrayed by her slaves for the ceremonial reception of the triumphant army and its leader. Only Aida is still unaware of the victory. Amneris decides that the time has come to probe her heart. In a frenzy of rage Amneris learns what she has dreaded to know.

**The Triumph Scene.** At the gates of Thebes, Radames and his soldiers are received in splendour. Radames is invited by the King to ask what favour he pleases. He asks that the captives be brought in. Amongst them is Amonasro, disguised, who admits only to being an officer and Aida's father. Radames asks that they be released. Ramphis demands that Amonasro and Aida be held as hostages to peace. Finally, the King bestows the hand of Amneris on the saviour of his country.

### ACT THREE

The banks of the Nile by moonlight. Amneris passes on her way to spend the vigil of her marriage in the Temple of Isis. Aida comes to keep a last tryst with Radames. "O Patria Mia" is a sad farewell to her fatherland. Amonasro joins her and unfolds a plan of escape, of turning defeat into victory, and of restoring Radames to Aida. If she would entice Radames to tell her which mountain pass the Egyptians will use against the resurgent Ethiopians, then victory would be assured. Aida only consents when her father furiously rejects her as the slave of the Egyptians. Radames, seduced by his passion for Aida, falls into the trap. Unguardedly he names the secret route, at which Amonasro finally reveals himself. From the temple Amneris and the High Priest too have overheard. The guard is alerted. Amonasro and Aida disappear in the darkness. Radames, accused of treason, surrenders his sword to the High Priest.

### ACT FOUR

In the sombre hall of the palace Amneris awaits the passage of Radames to trial for high treason. Agonised by remorse for the destruction her jealous rage has brought on Radames, she implores him to defend himself. But Radames, believing Aida to be dead, would welcome death himself. Silent before the priests, his judges, Radames is sentenced to be buried alive. Vainly Amneris inveighs against the priests.

The final scene is a divided one. Above is the Temple of Vulcan; below the dark airless tomb where Radames has been enclosed. From the shadows behind him a form emerges — Aida, who has concealed herself there in order to die with him. Together they say their farewell to earth (O Terra Addio) while above Amneris prays that Isis may grant peace to her beloved.



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